

New Hampshire Wetland Reserve Program - 2003 Ranking Criteria

The primary emphasis of the Wetland Reserve Program is to protect, restore and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been degraded as a result of agricultural activities. Ranking criteria has been established to prioritize WRP offers based on environmental factors, enrollment option, availability of matching funds, wetland function and values and the estimated success of restoration measures. (514.13)

		Point Value	Weighting Factor	Total Points
Eligibility Criteria	Landowner has owned the property for at least 1 year	Land is eligible, no points assigned		
	Landowner has owned property for less than 1 year. (1)	Land is not eligible for WRP Program		
	Wetland areas to be protected or restored have an agricultural history and have been degraded as a result of agricultural activities. (514.11b)	10	None	
	Wetland areas to be protected or restored have an agricultural history and have been degraded partially due to agricultural activities and partially due to other factors. (514.11b)	5	None	
	Wetland areas to be protected or restored do not have an agricultural history.	Land is not eligible for WRP Program		
Hydrologic Restoration (2) (514.14e)	90% or more of area with degraded hydrology will be restored	10	> 50 Ac. " x 3" < 50 and > 20 Ac. " x 2" <20 " x 1"	
	50% to 90% of area with degraded hydrology will be restored	5	> 50 Ac. " x 3" < 50 and > 20 Ac. " x 2" <20 " x 1"	
	Less than 50% of area with degraded hydrology will be restored	2	> 50 Ac. " x 3" < 50 and > 20 Ac. " x 2" <20 " x 1"	
Acres Benefiting	Total on-site contract acreage	> 50 Ac = 30pts <50 and >20 Ac = 20 pts <20 Ac = 10 pts		
	Adjacent land acreage benefiting from WRP. (514.11e) Documentation required. (3)	> 50 ac = 15 pts. < 50 and > 20 ac = 10 pts < 20 ac = 5 pts. (Maximum acreage cannot exceed 50% of the on-site acreage. (514.11e) See exceptions (4)		
Partnerships and Landowner Contribution	Leveraged funds result in WRP contributing 20% or less of the total project cost.	15	None	
	Leveraged funds result in WRP contributing 20% to 50% of the total project cost.	10	None	
	Leveraged funds result in WRP contributing 50% to 74% of the total project cost.	5	None	
	WRP is providing 75% cost share	2	None	
Habitat for migratory species and T&E species	Restoration efforts very important to known species documented to inhabit immediate vicinity.	10	None	
	Restoration efforts will improve habitat, but no known migratory species or T&E species have been identified	5	None	
	Minimal benefits to migratory species and T&E species	2	None	
Subtotal:				

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Total points from page 1:

		Point Value	Weighting Factor	Total Points
Water Quality	Water quality improvements will restore high value wetlands and critical habitat areas. (5)	10	> 50 Ac. " x 3" < 50 and > 20 Ac. " x 2" <20 " x 1"	
	Significant wetlands will be restored	5	> 50 Ac. " x 3" < 50 and > 20 Ac. " x 2" <20 " x 1"	
	Some wetlands on site will definitely benefit	2	> 50 Ac. " x 3" < 50 and > 20 Ac. " x 2" <20 " x 1"	

Likelihood of retaining habitat values and functions	Practices and/or easement are expected to last indefinitely. Life span of all practices installed is at least 10 years	20	High value or Critical habitat - " x 3" Significant Wetlands - " x 2" All others - " x 1"	
	Practices and/or easement are expected to last up to 30 years. Life span of all practices installed is at least 10 years	10	High value or Critical habitat - " x 3" Significant Wetlands - " x 2" All others - " x 1"	
	Some practices to be installed have a life span of less than 10 years.	5	High value or Critical habitat - " x 3" Significant Wetlands - " x 2" All others - " x 1"	
	All of the practices to be installed have a life span of less than 10 years.	2	High value or Critical habitat - " x 3" Significant Wetlands - " x 2" All others - " x 1"	

Total =

For Permanent Easements, complete the additional calculations below:

Project Type	Permanent easement protecting riparian wetlands along major stream corridor.		Double the Total amount and enter figure here. >>>	Final Score:
	Permanent easement protecting other wetlands		Multiply Total by 1.5 and enter amount here >>>	Final Score:

- (1) The State Conservationist can waive this restriction if adequate assurance is provided that the land was not purchased for the purpose of placing it in the WRP Program.
- (2) This criteria applies only to sites where the natural hydrology has been altered. Otherwise, enter 0 for this criteria.
- (3) In order to receive ranking points for adjacent acreage, documentation is required to assure that this WRP proposal has high potential to improve habitat functions and values for this adjacent acreage.
- (4) The State Conservationist can waive the 50% rule for adjacent salt marsh areas along the seacoast where shell fish beds and other critical habitat will benefit.
- (5) Examples include: ground water recharge regions, vernal pools, salt marsh, riparian wetlands, wetlands with known and identified T&E species, etc.